

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

an image designating unit for designating one of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the image-angle correcting unit corrects the tilt of the image data designated by the image designating unit so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with the direction of the other image data.

4. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data
and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle
20 correcting unit; and

wherein the image-angle correcting unit corrects the tilt of
at least one of the first image data and the second image data by
an arbitrary angle.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus
comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second
image data obtained respectively in a first photographing
5 operation and a second photographing operation;

a touch panel which is operable as a first direction-
designating unit to designate a direction for the first image
data stored in the storage device, and which is operable as a
second direction-designating unit to designate a direction for
10 the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions
designated respectively for the first image data and the second
image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at
15 least one of the first and the second image data depending on a

comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data
20 and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the touch panel designates the direction of the first image data and the direction of the second image data using coordinates which represent positions on the touch panel where a
25 user touches.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing
5 operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

10 a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions
designated respectively for the first image data and the second
image data;

 an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at
least one of the first and the second image data depending on a
15 comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so
that the directions of the first image data and the second image
data are made to coincide;

 an image composing unit for combining the first image data
and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle
20 correcting unit; and

 wherein the first direction-designating unit and the second
direction-designating unit comprise key buttons and designate a
direction based on a direction of a depressed at least one of the
key buttons.

Claims 9 and 10 (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) A photographing method
comprising:

 a) storing in a storage device first image data and second
image data obtained respectively in a first photographing
5 operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

10 d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the
15 second image data are made to coincide;

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted; and

g) designating one of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the tilt of the designated image data is
20 corrected so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with the direction of the other image data.

12. (Previously Presented) A photographing method comprising:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing
5 operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

10 d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the
15 second image data are made to coincide; and

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted;

wherein the tilt of at least one of the first image data and the second image data is corrected by an arbitrary angle.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having recorded thereon a computer readable program for controlling a control unit of a camera to perform functions of:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second
5 image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

10 c) designating a direction for the second image data stored
in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the
first image data and the second image data;

15 e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the
second image data depending on a comparison result of the
comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the
second image data are made to coincide;

f) combining the first image data and the second image data,
as adjusted; and

20 g) designating one of the first image data and the second
image data, wherein the tilt of the designated image data is
corrected so that the direction of the designated image data
coincides with the direction of the other image data.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium
having recorded thereon a computer readable program for
controlling a control unit of a camera to perform functions of:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second
image data obtained respectively in a first photographing
operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored
in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide; and

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted;

wherein the tilt of at least one of the first image data and the second image data is corrected by an arbitrary angle.

Claim 18 (Canceled).